

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /062 W

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O 161017Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1039

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5012

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PO

SUBJ: SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT

REF: LISBON 1036

SUMMARY: DESCRIPTION OF SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (SCAFM) MAY BE PLAYING KEY ROLE IN CURRENT CRISIS WITHIN ARMED FORCES. EXISTANCE OF COUNCIL FIRST ANNOUNCED WITH NO PREVIOUS WARNING IN PRESS OR LISBON RUMOUR MILL ON OCTOBER 28.

2. COUNCIL IS HEADED BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, INCLUDES SEVEN MEMBER OF JUNTA, SEVEN MEMBERS OF AFM COORDINATING COMMITTEE, PRIME MINISTER, LABOR MINISTER COSTA MARTINS, INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION MINISTER COSTA BRAS, MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ALVES AND ANTUNES, AND COPCON DEPUTY COMMANDER CARVALHO.

3. ROLE OF SCAF M HAS NEVER BEEN ADEQUATELY OR PERSUASIVELY EXPLAINED TO GENERAL PUBLIC OUTSIDE OF VAGUE NEWSPAPER DESCRIPTIONS OF IT AS QUOTE STUDY ORGAN OF BRAIN-STORMING TYPE WHICH WILL FACILITATE ACTIONS OF JUNTA IN CARRYING OUT ITS CONSTITUTIONAL MISSION UNQUOTE. TWO PLAUSIBLE BUT DIFFERING ROLES HAVE BEEN ASCRIBED TO SCAF M BY KNOWLEDGEABLE EMBASSY CONTACTS. ONE CONFIDENTIAL

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DESCRIBES SCAF M AS MEANS BY WHICH PRESIDENT CAN ACHIEVE GREATER

CONTROL OVER MILITARY THROUGH DILUTING LEADERSHIP OF RADICALS FROM COORDINATING COMMITTEE WITH ADDITION OF MORE MODERATE JSN AND PROVISIONAL GOVT MEMBERS. THIS VIEW OF SCAFM DESCRIBED TO EMBOFFS BY TWO PRESIDENTIAL AIDES. SECOND POINT OF VIEW ON SCAFM WAS RELATED BY ONE OF COUNTRY'S BEST INFORMED REPORTERS, MARCELO REBELO DE SOUSA OF WEEKLY EXPRESSO WHO THINKS THAT PURPOSE OF SCAFM IS TO PROVIDE MEANS OF DOING AWAY WITH PLENARY SESSIONS OF AFM--SESSIONS WHICH BECAUSE OF THE WEIGHT OF MODERATE OFFICERS HAVE TENDED TO TONE DOWN MORE RADICAL PROPOSALS OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE. EMBASSY IS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THIS VERSION BECAUSE SO FAR AS WE KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN NO PLENARY MEETINGS OF AFM FOR MONTHS, AND EVENTS OF LAST DAY WOULD SEEM TO FIT THE DESCRIPTION OF SCAFM AS ANTI-COORDINATING COMMITTEE VEHICLE.

SCOTT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, COMMITTEES, MILITARY POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** MILI, PO  
**To:** STATE  
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